

VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

To: Steve Goss, Assistant Superintendent

From: Ric Beers, Transportation Director

Subject: Bus Purchase Recommendation

Date: March 2, 2010

My recommendation for this year is the purchase of two 77 passenger buses, made by the International Corporation. In the past, I have recommended the purchase of three buses annually in order to rotate our fleet every 11 years. By eliminating two routes in the last three years and continuing to look for ways to save; I feel confident in the purchase of only two buses for next school year.

This year I considered three vendors: Hoekstra Transportation, Holland Bus Company and Capital City Bus Sales. The costs are as follows:

- **Holland Bus Company, \$73,131**
- **Hoekstra Transportation Inc., \$75,039**
- **Capital City Bus Sales, \$76,132**

These prices would be significantly higher (approx \$80,000), but because of dealer options for last year's engines we're able to get a discount. Current prices have increased by at least \$6,000 over last year.

While it is tempting to look at the less expensive Blue Bird and Safetyliner series; they both use the Cummins engine. In order to meet government emission standards, Cummins has chosen to use a urea solution that is injected into the engine cylinders. This necessitates an additional 30 gallon solution tank where the product is mixed, which will increase operating and labor cost. The solution also doesn't appear to be winter friendly as it starts to gel at minus five degrees. In an approach that I like, the International line is adding an additional turbo and EGR valve to meet government standards. By staying with the International line this allows us continued continuity with our fleet.

Normally, with the miles currently on our special ed buses, we would be replacing at least one lift bus this year. I am reluctant to recommend any replacements, while there is discussion with KRESA, on the merits of county-wide transportation for special ed.

In closing I am requesting two buses at \$76,132 each, plus digital recorders/cameras and two two-way radios for a total cost not to exceed \$158,064.

Thank you for your consideration and support in this matter.